

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

September 12, 2008

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW THE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO KAHEAWA WIND POWER  
HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AND INCIDENTAL TAKE  
LICENSE FOR ADDITIONAL METEOROLOGICAL  
SYSTEMS, MAUI, HAWAII

SUMMARY:

Submitted for your consideration is the request to initiate the public review process, as required by law, for the Proposed Amendment to Kaheawa Wind Power Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take License for Additional Meteorological Systems (Attachment I).

This proposal includes an amendment to add two additional meteorological towers to the existing Kaheawa Wind Project, as well as to add four additional meteorological towers as Kaheawa Wind Project II (KWPII) on the adjacent property. The proponent has agreed to provide a take estimate for the additional towers, as well as assurances from the banks for KWPII. Both projects fall under the same parent organization (UPC Wind Partners, LLC, and Makani Nui Associates, LLC), and would be covered under the existing take limits and conditions of the previously approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), although the Implementing Agreement would also need to be amended to include KWPII, if the proposed amendment was approved.

BACKGROUND:

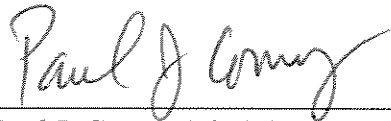
The Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) has reviewed the Proposed Amendment to Kaheawa Wind Power Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take License for Additional Meteorological Systems. The ESRC agrees with the purpose and intent of the proposed amendments, and anticipates its progression through the public review process. The ESRC recommends release for public review (Attachment II).

This request is to start the state public review process. With Land Board approval, a notice of the availability of the proposed amendment, ESRC comment, and Land Board submittal will be published in the OEQC Bulletin. The Department will solicit public input and hold a public hearing on Maui during the next 60 days. Following the public review process, the Department will revise the proposed amendment, including applicable changes to the Habitat Conservation Plan, Incidental Take License, and Interagency Agreement, to make any changes necessary and submit to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee for their final review. The Committee will provide a recommendation to the Land Board to accept, amend, or reject the proposal. After that time the amendments will be resubmitted to the Land Board for final consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Land Board approves to release for public review the Proposed Amendment to Kaheawa Wind Power Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take License for additional Meteorological Systems, Island of Maui, Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paul J. Conry, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



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Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Attachment I: Request for Amendment

Attachment II: ESRC Recommendation for Approval